

Cooper, Mark

From: Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe <susan.hinchcliffe@bradford.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 May 2023 23:24
To: mark.cooper@lgbce.org.uk
Cc: Asif Ibrahim
Subject: Local Government Boundary Commission Review - Bradford Labour Leader endorsement

Dear Mark,

I write regarding the submission from the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council which details the case to have 90 councillors serving the people of Bradford district. Having now read the submission I would like to say that I agree with its contents. The scale and diversity of the district demands that councillors have to work increasingly long hours. There is a rising level of need, and with the scaling back of public services, councillors often find themselves on the frontline of support, helping residents navigate difficult conversations and complex agency pathways. Modern media means that people use a variety of social media channels to contact us, expectations through these channels are that we respond immediately. This is alongside our surgeries, street surgeries, emails and phone calls. I list these here, not to complain, on the contrary most councillors become a councillor because they like helping people, but just to illustrate that we are very stretched and I would not like to scale down support to the citizens of this, the youngest city in the UK. Indeed when the council did its own survey of residents a few years ago, the majority agreed that we should keep three councillors per ward.

As a recently devolved Mayoral Combined Authority which has its own structures and committees, including three scrutiny committees, the Bradford representation on West Yorkshire Combined Authority has in recent years, with Mayoral Devolution, increased in the level of commitment we need to give. I have Cabinet members who are on three WY decision-making committees over and above their Bradford work. Backbench colleagues also populate the Scrutiny committees at WY level on Transport, Economy and Corporate.

We enjoy serving the people of Bradford district and West Yorkshire and want to make a difference. I hope you will agree with the submission and enable us to keep serving them by maintaining the councillor resource to do so adequately.

I am of course happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best wishes
Susan Hinchcliffe

Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe
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